



News from your city

OUT & ABOUT

Morton Community Center a Hot Spot.

Warm up winter at Morton Center, 222 N. Chauncey. Coming up: yoga, dance, aerobics, pottery, drawing, cartooning and more. Kids can sample Spanish, French, papermaking; preschoolers can enjoy crafts, music. Information at www.parks.city.west-lafayette.in.us, 775-5120.

Meet with the Mayor. Stop by:

Tuesday, February 6

4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Morton Community Center

Tuesday, February 20

3 to 4 p.m.

Westminster Village lobby

Thursday, March 8

4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

City Hall

Monday, March 19

5 to 6 p.m.

Lilly Nature Center

Recycle: New Records Set. West Lafayette residents responded to the recycling call in 2006, averting a record 2,144 tons of recyclable items from landfills, earning record revenues of almost \$112,000. Saved tipping fees totaled \$70,209.

Business Alliance to Meet. The Sagamore West Area Business Alliance hosts quarterly gatherings (next: 4 p.m., February 13, Westminster Village, human resources workshop) and quarterly business meetings (next: 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 10, Hunter's Pub). Contact Beverly Shaw, bshaw@city.west-lafayette.in.us, 775-5170.

www.city.west-lafayette.in.us

Up-to-the-minute news at the city's website.

WEST LAFAYETTE VALUES EVERY RESIDENT

Students, Families, Retirees Share Neighborhoods

University students may like staying up late, often inviting friends over, while families prefer tucking children in early. Some residents enjoy gardening. Others want to take trash-free neighborhood strolls. Often, university students and residents pitch in together to better the community, as in park cleanups, pictured below.

West Lafayette is indeed a community of varied ages, interests and needs. One thing everyone shares: passion for life in our diverse university community.

With our wonderful mix of residents, how can West Lafayette be a community everyone proudly calls home? "A happy coexistence of students, families and retirees takes a commitment to neighborly cooperation and respect for every resident," says Mayor Jan Mills. "And along with that, perhaps a little nudge from city government."

That's the feeling behind West Lafayette's "Valuing Every Resident" campaign. The goal is to raise awareness that everyone contributes, counts and has a

responsibility to the greater community. To assure this, some city ordinance revisions and increased enforcement are being proposed.



University students and residents pitch in together to better the community, as in park cleanups.

Reviewing Ordinances, Enforcement

Under discussion:

- Addressing tenants', landlords' and homeowners' responsibilities in minimizing negative impact from disorderly houses, loud music, yelling, equipment operation or other noises detrimental to a neighborhood;
- Solving refuse and yard issues by establishing collection rates for trash that doesn't fit in city-provided containers; eliminating scavenging; and assuring landscaping is maintained.

Preserving Neighborhoods

For students who like renting off campus, the ordinances and enforcement will be straightforward and easy to comply with. For homeowners who want assurance that their investment in West Lafayette will be protected, the revisions will help preserve neighborhoods.

"We need the wonderful mix of people who now make up West Lafayette," Mills said. "Addressing and enforcing these concerns will help West Lafayette keep that vitality."

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OVERSEES KEY FUNDS

How can the money be leveraged to land additional grants and funds? Will the investment improve public safety, health and welfare? Enhance quality of life?

“We want the community to continue to be a good place to live and have a business, to be a safe location, and to have good paying jobs.”

Steve Belter, President, Redevelopment Commission

Weighing Leverage, Benefits

Those are some of the questions members of West Lafayette's Redevelopment Commission weigh as they administer funds they oversee, says president Steve Belter, a commission member since its 1991 founding.

“On a lot of road projects, if we put up 20 percent, the state puts up 80 percent in federal highway dollars,” he cites as an example. Another leverage is potential development and subsequent tax base increases. That was a factor when the city purchased the former Sears site. “We ended up with a \$60 million investment at Wabash Landing plus other new businesses in the area,” Belter says.

\$24.5 Million in Projects Funded

From 1993 to 2005, the commission, which usually meets monthly and oversees three tax-increment financing (TIF) funds and the Certified Technology Park fund, has allocated \$24.5 million to projects. They've included stoplights, a park, trails, infrastructure and other community benefits. “We have a commitment to the community,” Belter says. “We want the community to continue to be a good place to live and have a business, to be a safe location, and to have good paying jobs.”

Five Appointed Members

Besides Belter, appointed by the mayor, members include mayor-appointed Diane Damico and Earle Naye, and council-appointed Patricia Hoyer and Larry Oates. They're assisted by development director Josh Andrew and his staff.

When TIF districts are created, the base tax revenue is measured, with subsequent year increases allocated to the TIF fund, used to better that district. Certified Technology Park funding is similarly dedicated, with current plans to provide \$4 million to reinvest in the park to help support a new incubator facility.

West Lafayette's TIF districts are: Levee/Village; Kalberer/Cumberland/Blackbird, which includes Phase 2 of Purdue Research Park; and Sagamore Parkway, which runs from Soldiers Home Road to Yeager and includes a couple of blocks north and south of the parkway.

YOUR CITY AT WORK

Ambitious Course for 2007. Street improvements, safety enhancements, a new fire station, police and fire protection for West Lafayette's newly annexed area, additional trails, park beautifications and more are on the agenda for 2007. The City encourages residents to participate in public meetings and your neighborhood association.

City Wins EPA Award. West Lafayette's fats, oils and grease program and wastewater treatment plant co-generation facility landed Indiana's only award in the EPA's Performance and Innovation in the SRF Creating Environmental Success (PISCES) program. Just 29 projects in the nation were recognized.

Health Insurance. With a goal of saving money while providing improved health insurance coverage for the city's 195 employees, West Lafayette is pooling with Lafayette to improve its buying power in the health insurance market. The newly purchased policy was effective January 1, with representatives from both cities slated to meet regularly to seek even greater efficiencies.

Youth Council on the Go. What are West Lafayette teens doing these days? More than 40 are members of the West Lafayette Youth Council, advised by city council person Patti O'Callaghan and led by president, David Rosenthal (rose.fam@verizon.net). Their recent activities have included a kiddy carnival, voter registration and a charity run. Membership is open to any interested teen.

Reading with Our Sister City. The City of West Lafayette participated in the recent Sister City Committee campaign, collecting books for children in Ota, Japan. More than 2,000 books were collected and are on their way to the students at the Gunma Kosuui Academy, an elementary and middle school.

Besides learning about local government, members of the West Lafayette Youth Council host charity events and youth activities, such as crafting for kids. Pictured volunteering is Anita Wong.



BETTERING OUR PARKS, BYWAYS

Visitors to West Lafayette parks are enjoying recent improvements, reports Parks and Recreation director Joe Payne. And city street upgrades, underground work and banners hanging sky-high along West Lafayette byways are delivering benefits from safety to accessibility, traffic flow and a welcoming feel, says city engineer David Buck.

Park News. Prairie and savanna planting projects have been completed at Trailhead Park and the Celery Bog Nature Area. These restore natural environment and save on maintenance costs. Also at the Celery Bog, a new wildlife viewing deck is in place at the north end of the footpath. And new swing sets have been installed at George E. Lommel and Tapawingo parks.

Salisbury Improvements. Roadwork along Salisbury is nearly complete from Robinson to Riley. Because of delays in relocating Duke Energy utility poles, new asphalt and striping will be done this spring. This summer, safety improvements continue from Riley to Rainbow, with new sidewalks and curbs on both sides of the street.

Cumberland Reconstruction. Public suggestions for improving Cumberland Avenue from Sagamore West to Soldiers Home Road were gathered at a December open house, and a planning committee of interested citizen volunteers formed. Depending on the final scope of the project, reconstruction could begin as soon as spring 2008. More public meetings on the project will be announced.

Sycamore Lane Traffic Calming Project. Design work is getting underway for the Sycamore Lane Traffic Calming Project, slated to begin in 2008 and include sidewalks on both sides of the street, flat-topped speed tables, crosswalks and other traffic calming features. Enhanced safety for all users is the primary goal on this project. The work will be 90-percent funded by a Federal Hazard Elimination Grant.

Yeager Road Redesign. Preliminary work has also begun on redesigning Yeager Road between Northwestern and U.S. 52 to improve turn lanes, sidewalks, curbs, drainage and traffic flow, with work tentatively scheduled to begin in 2009. Federal funding would cover 80 percent of the project.

Cattail Trail Reopens in April. The West Lafayette Wastewater Treatment Department is installing the first segment of the new western interceptor sanitary sewer line along a portion of Cattail Trail, prompting closure between Lindberg Road and Cherry Lane until mid-April.

Roundabouts. Jeromy Grenard, P.E., assistant city engineer, has been evaluating possible use of roundabouts locally. They provide a one-way, circular traffic pattern around a central island with benefits such as improved traffic flow, reduced speed, increased safety, less noise and lower fuel consumption. Roundabouts also offer an opportunity for plantings and public art in the center, he says.

Banners Wave a Welcome. Sagamore West now sports 39 banners on light poles from east of Nighthawk Drive to Win Hentschel Boulevard, giving the area an identity and unifying theme. The welcoming project was citizen-driven to enhance the streetscape and establish the area as a unique destination. The moniker, "Sagamore West," was suggested by Lester Alban, a West Lafayette resident.

Accessibility Survey Underway. Making West Lafayette accessible to all is driving the work to inventory city sidewalks, curb ramps, park facilities, city buildings and other infrastructure. The Engineer's Office is compiling the information, identifying needs, updating the city's ADA Action Plan, and targeting areas for improvements. Their work also includes compliance with recently revised ADA requirements, which require a detectable warning surface for visually impaired pedestrians on access ramps at street intersections. Some of the work will occur as repairs are made or new roadwork goes in.

West Lafayette's trail system is popular year round.



Mayor Jan Mills and Sagamore West Area Business Alliance president Joe Boorman helped install the first of 39 colorful banners along Sagamore West.



LOOKING GOOD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Beautification Awards. The latest to be recognized for their work to keep West Lafayette looking good:

- **Avondale Neighborhood Association**, which makes flower planting and spruce-ups a community affair;
- **Northwestern Heights Neighborhood Association**, which installed ornamental signs at the neighborhood's gateways and planted 300 daffodils in November at two sites along Lindberg Road.

Tipmont Grant Funds Daffodils. Tipmont REMC, an area electric utility, recently awarded the city \$2,000 from its EnviroWatts "green power fund." Along with \$500 from the West Lafayette Tree Fund, the city purchased and planted 4,000 daffodil bulbs. They'll be blooming this spring in Sagamore West medians between Yeager and Salisbury.



The Avondale Neighborhood Association brings residents together to spruce up and beautify the area. Photo courtesy Journal and Courier



Northwestern Heights Neighborhood Association recently installed signage.

Planting in Salisbury Medians. Watch for the new median plantings soon to take root on Salisbury. They'll include perennial salvia, daylilies, Japanese garden junipers, shrub roses and daffodils.

More Adopt-a-Spots Coming. With the new planting areas sprouting this spring, the city will have more Adopt-a-Spots seeking caretakers. Interested? Contact West Lafayette Parks and Recreation, 775-5110.

West Lafayette, Indiana

West Lafayette Values Every Resident
A campaign that focuses on students, families and retirees cooperatively sharing our neighborhoods.

Jan Mills, Mayor • 765/775-5100
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